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RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7567
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SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FIRST 100 DAYS AND
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

11. LEAD STORIES: All Wednesday morning papers gave top or front-page play to the spread of swine influenza in the U.S. and six other nations.

12. "President Obama's First 100 Days" The liberal Mainichi wrote in an editorial (4/29): "Looking back, we have the impression that only 100 days have passed since President Obama took office. Even in Japan, we learned about his energetic work as we heard about him every single day. Despite the worsening economy and unemployment rate in the U.S., the latest opinion poll showed that the majority of American people highly value the President's achievements. In addition to his personal charm, the President's leadership in enacting a law concerning stimulus measures within a month after he took office and his timely explanations of his policy to the American people may lie behind his strong public support. Having said that, his noncommittal prescription for dealing with the financial crisis is regrettable. The source of the world-wide economic crisis is the financial sector. The President has acknowledged that the economy will not recover fully unless drastic measures are taken in the financial sector."

13. "PM Aso Should Lead Japan's Nuclear Disarmament Efforts" The liberal Asahi editorialized (4/29): "... How will Japan support President Obama's efforts to seek the 'world without nuclear weapons' that he pledged at his speech in Prague? Foreign Minister Nakasone announced Japan's policy toward the reduction of nuclear arms in his speech titled 'Conditions to Zero - 11 Benchmarks for Worldwide Nuclear Disarmament.' We hope both the U.S. and Russia will accelerate their talks on a replacement for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-1) and exercise their leadership in the creation of a new security order through additional reductions in nuclear warheads. China and other nuclear powers should also make efforts toward nuclear disarmament... It is disappointing, though, that Prime Minister Aso is leaving this issue to the foreign

minister... Aso cannot possibly be indifferent to the issue. We hope Aso, as the prime minister of the only country ever to have been attacked with nuclear weapons, will express a clear position to support the trend of nuclear disarmament generated by President Obama's speech and help make nuclear disarmament possible."

ZUMWALT